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TOP SECRET RUEF

N.B.
TCS 4580/63-KH
M/EB 448/63
18 October 1963
Copy

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Military Division, OCI

ATTENTION: [redacted]

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THROUGH: Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance Group, CGS
FROM: Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)
SUBJECT: Negation of Reported Possible Missile Site Near Emba, USSR
REFERENCE: (a) Requirement C-CI-3-80,645
(b) CIA/PID Project C 1382-63
(c) OUSARMA, Moscow, No. 2901016363 (26 Aug 63)

1. This memorandum is in response to your above referenced requirement dated 3 October 1963 requesting a search of relevant photography to locate and determine the function of a facility reported in Reference (c) as a possible missile launching pad. This facility was observed in [redacted] and reported to 25X1 be about 25 miles northwest of Chelkar. It was described as a "double rail spur leading to a large heart-shaped possible missile launching pad, about 5 miles southeast of a small town on railway running northwest/southeast with four or five large white buildings on northeast side of railway."

2. The latest available photography of this area is KEYHOLE [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] Although the observer sighted the reported 25X1 facility in [redacted] he was probably describing construction activity associated 25X1 with the proposed 1,200 mile long Bukhara-Urals 40-inch gas pipeline which is currently under construction in this area. The "small town on the railway running northwest/southeast" is doubtless Solenaya (48-01N 59-11E), which is 25 miles northwest of Chelkar. The large gas pipeline under construction crosses the railway at Solenaya and extends for several miles both north and south of Solenaya. Five miles south of Solenaya, along the route of the pipeline, is a large "heart-shaped" clearing, probably the site of a construction camp or supply dump, or possibly the site of a future pumping station. In any case, the clearing appears associated with the gas pipeline construction and bears no resemblance to clearings and activity normally associated with missile site construction. There is no photographic evidence of any rail spurs leaving the main railroad within a ten mile radius of Solenaya. The "four or five large white buildings on the northeast side of the railway" are observed at Solenaya and probably are warehouses. Considerable new construction activity is apparent at Solenaya. Since this is

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the nearest rail connection to 300-400 miles of the proposed gas pipeline route, possibly a major supply base is being established here for the gas pipeline construction.

3. The photo analyst on this project is [redacted] and he may be 25X1
contacted on extension 3410 should you have any further questions concerning this project.

4. This project is considered to be complete.



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